

Executive Registry

// 20505

15 June 1966

W.F.
The Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 13, 1966 requesting my views with regard to the relationship of the Central Intelligence Agency to the United States Senate.

You will recall that at my last appearance before the Committee on Foreign Relations in February, I was prepared to brief your Committee on substantive foreign intelligence concerning any foreign country or area in which the Committee was interested. I had intended to brief in depth as to intelligence on the political, economic and military status of 44 countries. Such a briefing is consistent with our practice in past years with your Committee as well as other committees having substantive interest in foreign intelligence. The questions to which I stated I was unable to respond were questions directed to the activities of the Agency as to "sources and methods," rather than to substantive intelligence information. In doing so I was again being consistent with the practice of past years. The Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee according to my understanding is responsible for Senate oversight of CIA and was thus the Senate body to be so informed.

Copy
I have previously stated, once before your Committee, that the Senate supervision of the Agency seems to be one which the Senate itself would want to resolve.

I trust that this statement is responsive to your inquiry and I would, of course, be glad to confer with you on this subject at any time.

Sincerely,

(Signed) W. F. Raborn

W. F. Raborn

Orig - Hand carried to Addressee

1 - Hand carried to Mr. Darden

1 - Mr. Pherson, The White House

✓ 1 - ER w/ *Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000300120049-5*

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WFR/MFB - 14 June 1966

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J. W. FULBRIGHT, ARK., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

June 13, 1966

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
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The Honorable William F. Raborn
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Admiral Raborn:

In view of discussions which have taken place during the past several weeks, it has been suggested that I raise with you again the question as to the reaction of the Central Intelligence Agency to the creation by the Foreign Relations Committee of a Subcommittee charged with responsibility for the operations of your Agency in the field of foreign policy. You will recall in this connection that when you appeared before the Committee on Foreign Relations in February, you responded to certain questions by stating that you were unable to answer them but that you would answer those questions if they were put to you by the Subcommittees of either the Senate Armed Services or Appropriations Committees.

What I wish to know now is whether a Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, created for the purpose of keeping itself informed of the activities of the CIA in fields related to the foreign policy of the United States, would be able to receive without restriction information on the same basis as that now supplied to the Subcommittees referred to above.

It would be helpful if I could have this information by the end of this week as I contemplate reporting the resolution, a copy of which is enclosed, early next week. That resolution, as you know, was ordered favorably reported on May 17 by a vote of 14 to 5.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Fulbright
J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

Enclosure

That there is hereby created a [] committee to be known as the Committee on Intelligence Operations [] to consist of nine Senators, of whom three shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations from among the members of that committee, three shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services from among the members of that committee, and three shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations from among the members of that committee. No more than two of the members appointed from each such standing committee shall be from the same political party. The chairman of the [] committee shall be elected by the members.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Intelligence Operations to keep itself fully and currently informed of the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and other agencies of the Government insofar as the activities of such agencies relate to foreign intelligence or counter-intelligence. The committee's duties shall include, but not be limited to, review of the budgets and appropriations for intelligence and counter-intelligence activities and legislative oversight of the

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coordination of such activities among the various agencies concerned and with the foreign policy of the United States.

Sec. 3. The committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such places and times during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate, to hold such hearings, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such oaths, and to take such testimony as it deems advisable.

Sec. 4. A majority of the members of the committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that a lesser number, to be fixed by the committee, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking sworn testimony.

Sec. 5. The committee is authorized to utilize the services, information, facilities, and personnel of the various departments and agencies of the Government.

Sec. 6. The committee shall take special care to safeguard information affecting the national security.

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Remarks:

Attached is a draft of a response to Senator Fulbright's letter which I understand Mr. Helms proposes to discuss with Senator Symington on Wednesday. Note that the question asked by Senator Fulbright is not what we would do if the Senate passed the McCarthy resolution but is what we would do if a Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations were formed. This is the basis for my phrasing of the next to last sentence in the third paragraph of the letter.

LR Houston

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
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